

WOMEN'S FUND

YOU ARE THE
MOVEMENT

ANNUAL REVIEW 2024



AN ENGAGED DEMOCRACY

Essential to the mission of the Women's Fund, mobilizing philanthropy and fostering unity for gender equity, is an engaged democracy...where every voice matters, every story counts, and every individual has the power to participate.

With incredible tenacity, we put dialogue, advocacy, and action at the forefront. And with your investment, we are building more pathways for personal safety, bodily autonomy, and civic engagement. Together, we are amplifying voices, leveraging networks, preparing for elected office, providing knowledge and tools for better health, and ensuring women's wisdom, rooted in lived experience, shapes the decisions that lead to better policies that impact us all.

This work is also deeply personal. Fostering gender equity requires personal transformation—challenging our own assumptions, aligning our values with our actions, and embracing the role each of us plays in shaping a better future. Your support transforms systems and inspires others to reflect on how they can use their individual power to create ripples of change in their own lives and our community.

Rest assured, your support inspires us every day and we are grateful. Thank you for believing in the power of philanthropy!

WITH GRATITUDE



BETH ODIAN

Chair, Board of Directors



LISA ATTONITO

Executive Director

WOMEN'S
FUND
PRESENTS

MONEY & POLITICS

THE IMPACT ON WOMEN AND POWER



Recognizing the pivotal role of convening community to our mission, the Women's Fund Presents program is designed to provide information, initiate conversations, foster connections, and drive meaningful actions.

The last of a three-part series focused on an engaged democracy, we proudly hosted our annual program, centered on the critical intersection of money and politics. With Associated Bank as our Signature Partner, the program featured Erin Loos Cutraro who explored the complex relationship between money and politics and the impact on women and power.

Thank you to everyone who joined us, supported this program, and continues to stand with the Women's Fund in our mission to build a future where all women and girls have access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive. Together, we're making progress—one conversation, one action, one movement at a time.

We look forward to seeing you in 2025 as we continue to foster gender equity in Greater Milwaukee.



CIVIC CHAMPIONS

★ NAMED BY OUR PROGRAM PARTNERS AND CELEBRATED DURING THE PROGRAM ★



ABBY ANDRIETSCH

CEO, ST. AUGUSTINE PREPARATORY ACADEMY
Named by Quarles



LIZ SUMNER

COMPTROLLER, MILWAUKEE COUNTY
Named by Kane Communications Group



VANESA CARMONA-LEWIS

PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT, VCL SOLUTIONS LLC
Named by speak.write.coach



CAROL PRITZLAFF VOSS

ASSOCIATE DEAN MANUFACTURING/
CONSTRUCTION/TRANSPORTATION
ACADEMIC AND CAREER PATHWAY,
MILWAUKEE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Named by the Morjaria Family



DR. JEANETTE MITCHELL

Posthumously named by Associated Bank

COMMUNITY. ADVOCACY. IMPACT.

We are activating philanthropy and fostering unity for gender equity by protecting rights, removing obstacles, and creating ripples of change for women, their families, and our community. We challenge the status quo through advocacy and policy work, relevant programming, strategic grantmaking, and scholarship awards.



HER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

For nearly three decades, our HER Scholarship Program has provided support to non-traditional students — women aged 35 and above who face tremendous hurdles — enabling them to achieve lasting economic self-sufficiency through higher education.

ADVOCACY

Our advocacy is focused on root causes... by deepening our understanding of key issues, and championing actions that promote gender equity, we are working to ensure that ALL women thrive.

PROGRAMMING

We carefully curate programming that spurs intergenerational conversations and drives meaningful action. Our programs inspire curiosity and create confidence with insightful perspectives that equip participants for positive change.

GRANTS

Through strategic grantmaking, we support initiatives that tackle systemic issues and foster an equitable environment where everyone can thrive.

FLASH GRANTS

While still focused on advancing gender equity, these grants are for a specific project or issue. An informal process allows for spontaneity; the impact of these grants has exceeded expectations.



1 Co-signed a letter with two other Wisconsin Women's Funds, to the Wisconsin legislation sharing information related to the negative impact of the reduced **VOCA FUNDING** has on organizations across the state.

2 Organized the annual **WF COMMUNITY BOOK READ** and heard from 5 people who are practicing "Inclusive Language Principles" outlined by Dr. Suzanne Wertheim.

3 Hosted a three-part series focused on an Engaged Democracy...from trust in the judicial system with Wisconsin Supreme Court **JUSTICE JANET PROTASIEWICZ** to imagining the possibilities with three **CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM SAINT PAUL**, Minnesota, then, with **ERIN LOOS CUTRARO**, we talked about money & politics.

4 On the last Monday of each month since January, we have held **WF LAUNDRY NIGHTS**. This is a casual gathering for conversation, camaraderie, and inspiration...more than 75 people participated.

5 Joined with **WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE** to organize an International Women's Day community program that focused on pay equity.

6 Organized a Women's Night at the Theater in partnership with **CADENCE**, when the Milwaukee Rep challenged our thinking about the 14th Amendment with "Constitution."

7 Extended our partnership with **WOMEN IN DESIGN MKE** for Lightning Talks with a theme of "Revolution."

8 Promoted the chance to see *Out of the Picture*, feature-length film about art critics living through a period of transformation for both art and media.

9 In Q3, a long-time supporter, **BETH WECKMUELLER** hosted the **WF POWER ILLUMINATORS** and prospective supporters for an update and to hear the first iteration of a new Intended Impact Statement.

10 Held a special session that featured, **DANILO DANESI**, CFI with J.P. Morgan Private Bank for WomenWill donors, (those that have included the Women's Fund in their estate plans.)

11 Met the **WF POWER ILLUMINATOR CHALLENGE** created by **ANNETTE JACOBSON** by securing at least 24 new **WF POWER ILLUMINATORS**.

12 Invested in fostering gender equity with a dozen organizations...

- Supported women impacted by family violence;
- Addressed unmet legal needs of Milwaukee County's low-income litigants with legal counsel;
- Empowered women, especially black women, through community-building, self-care and wellness activities;
- Developed leadership skills, especially with Latinas, to eliminate health inequities;
- Encouraged legislative change for people with disabilities;
- Provided opportunities for music education and performance; and
- Helped ensure the civic rights pioneer **VEL R. PHILLIPS** was enshrined with a statue at the State Capital.

ACTIVATING PHILANTHROPY

POWER ILLUMINATORS.

This donor recognition program was established in 2023 to celebrate the specialness of personal gifts. It is designed to cultivate relationships with donors and encourage them to deepen their commitment to the mission.

WOMENWILL.

These individuals have included the Women's Fund in their estate plans. Whether their ultimate gift is the entire estate, a portion of the estate, or a set dollar amount from the estate... we are proud they believe equity for women is an important part of their personal legacies.

LEARN MORE.



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Kosana Stojcevic

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Marilka Vélez

Carol Voss

Jerri Washington



WE BELIEVE
PERSONAL SAFETY IS ESSENTIAL.

WE BELIEVE
PROTECTING RIGHTS IS CRUCIAL.

WE BELIEVE
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT MATTERS.

The Women's Fund is committed to fostering gender equity by protecting rights, removing obstacles, and creating ripples of change for women, their families and our community. We challenge the status quo through advocacy and policy work, relevant programming, strategic grantmaking, and scholarship awards.

The Women's Fund stands at the forefront of the women's movement locally. Founded in 1986, and established as an independent organization in 2006, we remain committed to mobilizing philanthropy and fostering unity for gender equity, just as we have done for almost 40 years.

WOMEN'S FUND
OF GREATER MILWAUKEE

Lisa Attonito, Executive Director

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COMMUNITY. ADVOCACY. IMPACT.